

Attention FDA

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It came to my attention that the FDA is being asked to take away my right to sign a medical waiver before purchasing a hearing aid. Instead I would be forced to have a medical exam or hearing test. Here's my views and/or experiences on several related questions?

1. Should I be forced to have a medical exam and/or hearing test before purchasing a hearing aid? If so, should the FDA pay for the exam?

No, I should not be forced to have a medical exam and/or hearing test before I purchase a hearing aid. When I visit an ENT, which I occasionally do, the audiologist is always there to do a hearing test. I have refused one on my last two visits. I believe that is mostly a money-making scheme because that office has a record of my poor hearing from previous such tests.

If I am forced to have a medical exam and/or hearing test, YES, the FDA should pay for the exam and the hearing aid because the cost there is about three times as much as my mail order one from EXCEL and is not as efficient as the one I am wearing from EXCEL. I have had a Miracle Ear and Beltone.

2. Some people are physically unable to drive to a doctor or hearing specialist, or

have had bad experiences they don't want to repeat. For instance ... A hearing test makes me dizzy. My ENT told me that I am not the only patient who has expressed dizziness as a reason for refusing a hearing test. I could say a lot about hearing aid sales! My first experience with a hearing aid was a Miracle Ear. I spent time carrying it back to the office to be worked on. Often the representative would be different — the reason it was needing service so soon, he'd claim. He would have to mail it away for weeks — a handicap for me! One salesman, who sold me one at Sears, left and began selling Beltones. I bought one from him. For service I had to call him long distance. He came to our home at his leisure. Then he would almost always

3. Should the FDA take away my Constitutional Right, affirmed by the Supreme Court, to decide for myself my medical exams and treatment?

NO! The FDA does not pay my bills!

4. Should I be allowed to purchase hearing aids by mail as I choose?

Absolutely! Selling hearing aids by a physician is a money-making gimmick at the expense of the poor patient who is grasping for restoration of his hearing ability.

Signed by: Jim Blackwell

Date: 3-2-00

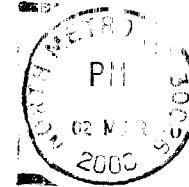
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have to mail it away. It was not mailed back to me from the repairing company. After the salesman received the aid; at his leisure again, he would bring it back to me. With EXCEL I can eliminate that unnecessary waiting and expensive service because I mail it to you myself. After servicing the aid, you mail it directly to me. I am actually served faster without the bother of a salesperson coming to my home and acting guilty. From EXCEL I have a REAL hearing aid. I have been very pleased with service from you. Batteries from EXCEL are cheaper and longer lasting. For questions or service I can call a 1-800 number.

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